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FROM

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Sheffield in the Berkshires



A Booklet

By FRANK ARTHUR SCOTT, A. B.



“loveliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid,
And parting summer’s lingering blooms delayed.”

—*Goldsmith.*



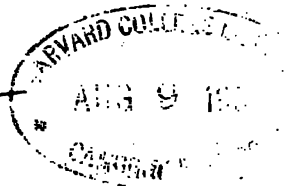
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F. A. Scott
New Britain, Conn

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.



THE purpose of this booklet is twofold; to inform those who desire to know about Sheffield as a summering place, and to serve as a brief sketch of the town in its various aspects. It is hoped that the pamphlet will be of sufficient interest to commend itself to both the residents and those to whom the town is as yet unknown.

W. D. FRENCH,
F. A. SCOTT.

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"THE ARCADE," MAIN STREET.

Sheffield in the Berkshires.

I.

BEAUTIFUL for situation," Sheffield lies in the heart of the Berkshires at the point where the hills open into a broad valley and the plain throws into contrast the loftiness and grandeur of the mountains. To the south are the picturesque Canaan hills; to the east the low lying mountains roll off in successive billows; the western view is obstructed by the Taconic range rising upward to the Dome; and to the north are glimpses of the uplands of central and northern Berkshire. It touches Connecticut on the south and is shut off from the state of New York only by the western mountains.

In common with the rest of the Berkshires, Sheffield is in direct communication with the city of New York which commands much of its products. The Berkshire Hills Division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford affords quick and ready connection with the

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metropolis and other cities to the south. The Boston and Albany, at Pittsfield, thirty miles north, brings into communication Boston and the east, and Albany and the west. Three hours bring one to New York, thru the Connecticut hills with their varied beauty. Thru Canaan, over the Connecticut line, the Central New England, recently absorbed by the Consolidated, connects with Hartford. It goes thru a country abounding in physical irregularity, ruggedness, and charm.

Five miles north of Sheffield is the southern terminus of the Berkshire Street Railway, the well-equipped road that has united western Massachusetts by its lines in almost its entire extent. This road and the steam cars join Sheffield to that far famed country in which are Lenox, Stockbridge and Lee. Lenox, the town of palatial summer homes, is twenty miles north of Sheffield. It will be remembered that this section is intimately connected with the lives and careers of many leaders in American life and letters,—with Bryant, Hawthorne, Holmes, Longfellow, Jonathan Edwards, Beecher and Channing. Berkshire County and Litchfield County to the south in Connecticut have brought forth and nourished many great Americans. Sheffield, in the centre of this region, is admirably placed for the seeing of these points of historical interest, having at the same time an environment of much natural beauty.

Tho in a valley Sheffield has a high altitude. The lowlands of the Housatonic River, which flows with a circuitous route thru the plain as it journeys to the Sound, are free from the taint of malaria. The air is clear and dry, unmixed with the impurities of city atmosphere. The broad valley invites a strong sweep of wind, cleansing the air. An altitude of eleven hundred feet produces a climate invigorating and healthful.

An English lord, while in the Berkshires, said, "England has nothing more pleasingly picturesque than Berkshire." Somewhat naively another person has remarked, "Somebody has called Berkshire the Piedmont of America. I do not know how just the appellation may be, but I do know that if Piedmont can rightly be called the Berkshire of Europe, it must be a very delightful region." With his hills about him, the Sheffieldian says, "If yu luv a mountain, cum up here and see me."

II.

The natural assets of Sheffield are very great. By a happy combination of chance and design it has a unique situation. The centre of the town lies along a main street of exceptional beauty. It has been said this avenue is scarcely surpassed in picturesqueness. Four rows of elms, two on each side of the roadway, arch the street and paths with their characteristic grace and dignity. These trees, planted fifty years

ago by about forty of the townspeople. make of the town one continuous arbor of coolness and shade in the hot summer days. Thru these lines of noble elms the old post road extends north and south in the centre of the plain, the mountains rising to the east and west beyond the fertile meadows.

The main street is but a type of the fifty miles of good road which run thru the length and breadth of the town in intersecting parallel lines. The number of automobiles in Sheffield and the other Berkshire towns bear witness to the excellence of the thoroughfares. The "White Flyer" and other less famous vehicles are seen on Sheffield streets in the summer and in 1903 there were eleven of these motor carriages owned in Sheffield.

The value of good roads is enhanced by the prodigality of trees and flowers, covering the bareness of rocks and hills. Clusters of pines with silken, velvety foliage abound side by side with groves of chestnut, maple and birch. The Housatonic in its winding way is overshadowed by the drooping willows whispering over the water. The quiet and deep green of the foliage blends here and there with the dark rock,—on Bear Mountain, in the open and discolored quarries, and on the high slopes of the Dome.

Less prominent in the landscape but more beautiful are the flowers of meadow and wood. The seed of New England flowers, carried by the wind to every

spot open and hidden, have sprung up in lavish plenty. The daisy, the violet, the golden rod, the iris, the anemone, laurel and arbutus,—all the varied tinted tribes of the soil, are everywhere. Here and there, in a spot known only to the fortunate few, a rarer flower grows; the fringed gentian, celebrated by Bryant in his fine poem, is one among many of the less common and shifting flowers whose habitat is in this region.

These native beauties of valley and hillside are very pleasing, but the visitor to Sheffield loses much if he fails to see the panorama spreading out from the Dome, the highest point in the Taconics. From that height of twenty-six hundred feet the view extends in all directions for fifty miles or more. Below, to the west, is the hamlet of Mount Washington, a spot of great beauty, high up in the heart of the Taconics. Farther west are the Catskills with the Hudson at their base, and away to the northward rise other of the Appalachian Range. In the northern extent of the Berkshire valley are seen Greylock and October Mountains, while to the east the lower hills roll away in choppy billows. Southward are the Canaan hills, the northernmost of the Connecticut uplands, and Hartford, over fifty miles away, can sometimes be discerned on the edge of the horizon.

Below, in the valley, lies the Sheffield plain, flat, but showing great fertility and diversity of soil and dotted here and there with hills. Scattered among the

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hills are bodies of water, mirroring the sun's rays and affording to Sheffield environment of additional charm. The Twin Lakes of Salisbury are a patch of white in the southern view. Lake Buel lies in a northerly direction, easily reached from Sheffield and Great Barrington, and down the valley the Housatonic wanders in an ever changing and uncertain way.



THE SHEFFIELD ELM.

About the village of Sheffield are many places of considerable interest and charm. Bear's Den, a rough cliff of granite, is about a mile west and affords a com-

manding view of the valley in its whole extent, from Canaan to the far north. A grassy terrace extending into the lowlands of the river to the east of Main Street is known as the Pine Knoll, its sides covered by many tall and lordly pines which are estimated to be from one hundred to two hundred years of age. A part of the Massachusetts Public Reservations, having been given to the state by a number of friends and residents of Sheffield, it is a retreat of coolness and shade from the summer heat. One mile south of the centre of the town stands the "Sheffield Elm," the elm of elms in the village, of indefinite age, but probably a growth of several centuries.

Other points of interest farther from the centre offer the opportunity and incentive for drives on mountain and wood road where the beauty and delight of the country lie. Eastward over Brush Hill and thru woodland the road leads to Lake Buel, seven miles away; on the south it takes one to the Twin Lakes, six miles distant, with their broad expanse of three miles, and to Sage's Ravine, a precipitous waterfall of seventy feet; to the north the east road gives a view of wide and fertile fields and mountains and carries one to Great Barrington whence the return may be made by the west road thru the plain where stands the rough monument commemorative of the fight with the discontented Shays. One of the finest drives in the vicinity is to Mount Washington thru the Taconic

Mountains with their wild scenery of wood, stream and ravine.

The drives suggested do not exhaust the interest and activities of summer life in the town. The active exercise in tennis, mountain climbing, automobiling, or golf, the last of which can be played on excellent links at Great Barrington. The botanist sees much to study and admire; the geologist discovers a land with an interesting physical history; the artist discerns a wealth of material everywhere. The sportsman and fisher each year



SAGE'S RAVINE.

carries off his trophies: ruffed grouse from the hillside,

quail in the swamps and swales, woodcock during the season of flight, and trout and lake fish from their respective haunts.

III.

As the first settlement in the western county of Massachusetts, Sheffield has an honorable history. For one hundred and five years after the arrival of the founders of New England in Massachusetts Bay the western part of the state remained wild and uninhabited by white men. In the year 1725 one man with only his sixteen year old daughter journeyed thru the wilderness and settled in the valley of the Housatonic at Sheffield. They travelled on horseback and the girl's saddle was a feather bed. This pioneer had come from Westfield, then a frontier town forty miles away.

The original boundaries of the town of Sheffield embraced portions of the present towns of Great Barrington, Egremont and New Marlboro. In 1761 Great Barrington separated from the town and about thirty years later other portions were incorporated into the other towns mentioned. Other Berkshire towns were settled about this time; Pittsfield in 1743, Lenox in 1750, Stockbridge in about 1734.

The early struggle with the French and Indians brought the Berkshire settlements into a war while they were still young. The heroism characteristic of the New England pioneer saved the country against the invader.

The results of the Revolution were seen in great business depression thruout the country. Debt and stagnation of trade were present everywhere. A petition had been sent from Sheffield and other towns to the General Court, asking that measures be taken for relief. In the vain hope of ameliorating these conditions, and, if nothing more, to prevent the trial and sale of debtors, Shays gathered together the discontented and endeavored to sieze the arsenal at Springfield. The only pitched battle of the rebellion took place in Sheffield where the uprising was quelled on the plain in the northern part of the town, near the Goodale Quarry, on February 27, 1787. General John Ashley of Sheffield was in command of the small body of state troops called upon in the emergency.

The period of the Civil War brought out the same qualities of patriotism and self-sacrifice shown in the War for Independence. In town meeting within two weeks after Lincoln's first call for volunteers, a committee was appointed to form a militia. Money was raised to equip troops. As the war dragged on liberal bounties were offered to volunteers, and financial aid continued to be freely given. At the end of the struggle the town had sent forth two hundred and sixty-nine men, more than her quota, and had raised over thirty thousand dollars for the support of the war.

Before the arrival of the Housatonic Railroad in 1840, the town was the mid-station on the old post

road between Hartford and Albany and was on the turnpike running between New Haven and Canada. These facts encouraged hotels, several of which flourished at that time. There is an old unauthenticated tradition of the period that the great Frenchman, Chateaubriand, on the way from Hartford to Albany chanced of an evening to meet a member of the Dewey family in one of these inns. The two fell into a conversation which soon became mathematical and philosophic, absorbing the gentlemen till daybreak.

The development of railroads and the growth of large cities, the centres of life and business enterprise, have had their effect upon Sheffield. But as yet the quiet and repose characteristic of her past history and so indispensable to those under the strain of active life, seeking for rest and restoration, have not departed from her.



THE DOME

IV.

The beauty of the Berkshires has long attracted a body of men and women who have been powers in American life and letters.

One of Sheffield's contributions to that band of men was the Reverend Dr. Orville Dewey, a man of great influence in his native town and in the Unitarian Society of which he was an able minister. He was at one time the associate of Dr. Channing in Boston; and later had charge of societies in Boston and New York. While at home in Sheffield for his health and restoration he prepared and delivered before the Lowell Institute of Boston a course of lectures on "The Problem of Human Destiny."

The Barnard family, for years active in town life, produced two men of the first rank. Daniel Dewey Barnard was in 1849-1853 the United States Minister to Prussia. Dr. Frederick A. P. Barnard, whose position as president of Columbia College gave him a great influence upon educational thought and practice was of this family. He, like Dr. Dewey, was a writer of note, and his articles on the subject of education are strong and able. His brother, General J. G. Barnard, also born here, was considered by General Grant, on whose staff he served in the Richmond campaign, to be the greatest engineer America had ever produced. He was on the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army for fifty years.

The war for independence brought out from Sheffield several men of power, tho not of great note. The Ashley family, whose name is preserved in Ashley Falls, gave to the country several soldiers of intelligence and leadership. Among them was General John Ashley of Shays' Rebellion fame.

The man who settled permanently the question of slavery in Massachusetts was at one time a citizen of Sheffield. As a lawyer in this town, and later as Judge of the Supreme Court of the state, Theodore Sedgwick tested the law and gave the decision that rendered slavery illegal in Massachusetts, the first state in the Union to prohibit the traffic and institution.


The vicinity of Sheffield has become interesting as the birthplace or land of sojourn of men of wide and national, if not world wide, repute.

It will be remembered that Bryant first practiced law in Great Barrington, which adjoins Sheffield, five miles to the north. He has given expression to the beauty of this land in "Green River," "Monument Mountain," "The Rivulet," "The Death of the Flowers," and other poems.

Three of New England's ablest divines have lived in the Berkshires. Jonathan Edwards, the scholar and writer, is widely known as the minister to the Stockbridge Indians in the beautiful town twelve miles north of Sheffield. William Ellery Channing, the eminent Unitarian, spent several summers in Lenox,

and there became a friend of Fanny Kemble and Catherine Sedgwick. Miss Sedgwick was a native of Stockbridge, and Mrs. Kemble was among the first to admire Lenox, where she spent her leisure time for thirty years. Henry Ward Beecher also enjoyed several summers in Lenox where he at one time owned a farm and where he wrote his "Star Papers." Litchfield, Connecticut, in the county south of Berkshire, was the birthplace of Beecher and of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Ethan Allen was also born there. Beecher's summer journeys took in much of the country of southwestern New England: Salisbury, six miles south of Sheffield, Canaan and the Twin Lakes share with the Berkshire land a place in his "Star Papers" and other writings.

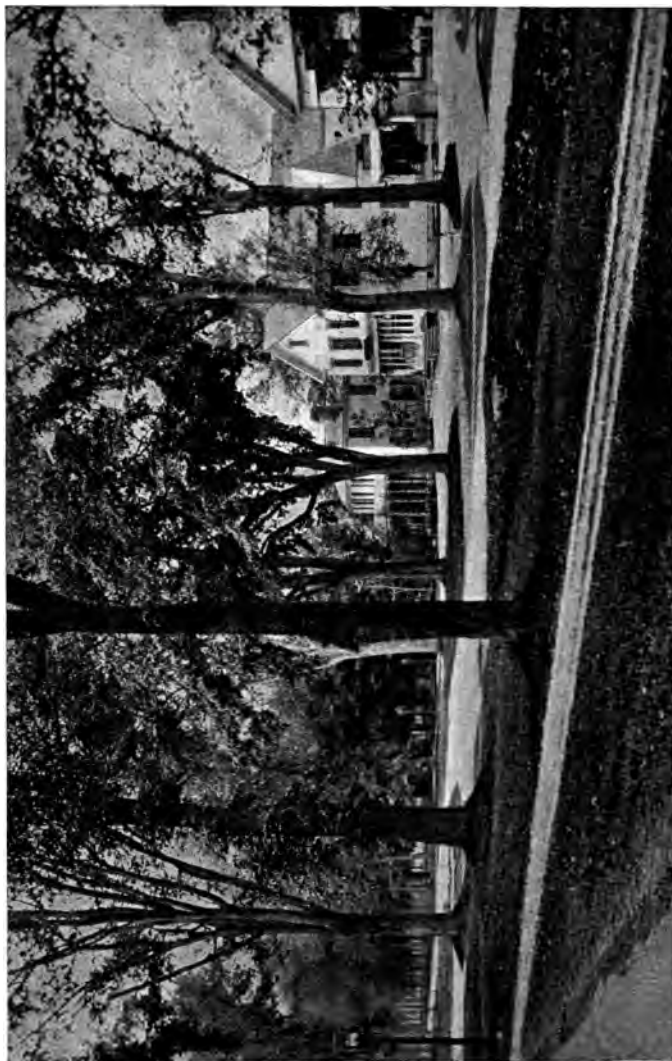
In his "Little Red House" in Lenox, Hawthorne endeavored to restore his health. While there he wrote "The House of Seven Gables," "Tanglewood Tales" (he called his Lenox home "Tanglewood"), and planned "The Blithedale Romance." Longfellow and Holmes also spent some time in Pittsfield about thirty miles north of Sheffield. Longfellow found a theme for "The Old Clock on the Stairs" in the old clock in the country residence of the Appleton family which he visited on his wedding journey in 1843, his wife having been an Appleton. During the period of his visits to Pittsfield he wrote "Evangeline," "The Belfry at Bruges," and many other short poems.



Oliver Wendell Holmes passed what were to him "seven blessed summers" in Pittsfield, where one of his ancestors was an early settler. Many characters and much scenery of "Elsie Venner" are thought to have been found there. Holmes wrote commemorative lines, as was his custom, on several occasions during his stay; three of them are "The Dedication of the Pittsfield Cemetery," "The Ploughman," and "Lines Read at the Berkshire Jubilee."

The "queerest and wisest of humorists," Josh Billings, was a native of Lanesboro, just north of Pittsfield, located in his own words, "in the state of Massachusetts, and iz about 150 miles west ov Plymouth rok." It may be his description of New Ashford, next his native town fits other Berkshire towns, among them Sheffield; "It iz one ov them towns that don't make enny fuss, but for pure water, pure morals, and good rye, and injun bread, it stands on tiptoze."

A former minister of Stockbridge, Dr. David Dudley Field, was the father of one of the brainiest families in America. One of his sons, David Dudley Field, was an eminent New York lawyer; another, Stephen J. Field, was a Justice of the Supreme Court in the United States; a third, Cyrus W. Field, born in Stockbridge, was a successful business man and the projector of the first transatlantic cable; the fourth, Henry M. Field, also born in Stockbridge, is remembered as the traveller and editor.



"THE CENTER," MAIN STREET.

One other man, born in Great Barrington, was one of our ablest college leaders. He is Mark Hopkins, president of Williams College, of whom Garfield is reported to have said that a liberal education for him would have been a log with Mark Hopkins on one end and himself on the other.

The towns of Berkshire, and Sheffield among them, have reason to be proud of the noble men and women who have made a home within their borders. The roll is a goodly one.

V.

There was a time in the economic life of the town, before the railroad made specialization of industry practical and profitable, when Sheffield, in common with other New England communities, supported a sufficient variety of industries to make importation unnecessary. Carriages, clothes, silverware, hats, cabinets, were among the articles made: iron forges, tanneries and carding machines were paying ventures. Several hotels flourished, fed by the travel over the turnpike on which Sheffield was an important station.

Influenced by the growth of cities, the centres of commerce and trade, the country town has as is well known gone thru an industrial revolution. To-day the chief business of many New England towns is dairying. Sheffield is peculiarly adapted to the encouragement of this occupation. The Housatonic valley, at this point six miles wide, is fertile; its flats

are well fitted to the raising of cereals, and its hill-sides excellent for grazing. The presence of the Willow Brook Creamery in Sheffield gives to the farmer a ready market for his milk. The milk is prepared for distribution by a very interesting and simple process. It is first weighed, the farmer being paid by the pound at a price depending upon the amount of butter fat in the product. Samples are taken and tested twice a month. During the winter, the milk is slightly warmed before passing thru the clarifier. By means of the centrifugal force of a rotary movement, the sediment and impurities are there separated out. The cream passes into large vats in which it is stirred by the "agitator" which insures a fixed richness in every bottle. From the vats the cream passes into the running bottler, a device for filling a large number of bottles at one time; these are packed and shipped to New York by special milk trains. During the summer the excess of cream is utilized in making butter, the product being untouched by hands during the whole process of manufacture.

In a sense the agricultural production is a part of the dairying business, for a large part of the crops are used for the maintenance of cattle. The soil of the valley is a sandy loam with a subsoil of clay, and it produces good crops of farm produce, corn, grain and garden vegetables. No exportation of these arti-

cles takes place, however, since they do not always suffice to meet the local demands.

Even the bare and unfertile rocks of the land are material wealth. From the Sound to Vermont thru western Connecticut and Massachusetts there runs a rich vein of marble which comes to the surface in quarries affording a very high grade of stone. Two of these quarries are in Sheffield.

The marbles of Sheffield are hardly inferior to any on the market. That from Ashley Falls, in the southern part of the town, is the second strongest marble in the American market; only the Beaver Dam marble has a higher crushing strength. It is claimed for the Goodale quarry, in the northern part of the town, that it is of a purity and quality equal to the famous Carrara stone. Both marbles have been put into very fine structures; that from the north quarry having been used in Girard College, Philadelphia, at a time before the railroad was put thru, and it is also found in the City Hall and Court House of New York City: the marble from the Ashley Falls quarry is found in the City Mausoleum of Columbus, Ohio, and in the Masonic Temple of Rochester, New York. The trap rock from the Goodale quarry is utilized in the lime kiln of The A. & M. Barnes Lime Company. The purity of the marble (98%) together with its crystalline structure make it possible to produce a very high grade of mason's lime that is known and used

widely thruout Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The Ashley Falls quarry, with its 86-foot electric crane, its saws, rubbers and polishers, is able to turn out stone in any shape or size desired and has shipped marble to all points east of the Mississippi River.

The water of Sheffield issuing from this bed of rock and fertile soil is also a source of revenue. Several springs and reservoirs exist in Sheffield which furnish water of medicinal value and of great purity. The abundance of such is a marvel. It is exceptional that water, unsurpassed in the State and rivalling, in the judgment of many, the famed Poland water, should be found in such plenty as to permit it to be piped into every home in the town for use in the house, barn and garden. The analysis of the State Board of Health shows the water to be almost absolutely pure and devoid of free nitrogen and saline ammonia; this is present in only 0002 of one part in 100,000 parts; albuminoid ammonia in 0026 of one part, and mineral residue in 2.65 parts. It has great value in the treatment of kidney and rheumatic troubles.

The pressure of the water in the mains is amply sufficient for house purposes and for the use of the hose company in its fight against fires. An efficient body of volunteers in the fire department renders property as safe as can be under rural conditions.

The Sodium Spring water, secured from another

spring than that furnishing the town water, and known on the market as Berkshire Sodium Water, has been for some years shipped from Sheffield. It is rich in sodium salts as shown by the analysis of Professor R. Ogden Doremus of New York. The medicinal and tonic value of the salts of sodium has made this water valuable in treatment of skin troubles, rheumatism and gout, dyspepsia and Bright's disease. The town water has also been exported as table water.

One other natural resource of the town has already been utilized and is capable of a greater development. It resides in the witch hazel tree, a small perennial tree or shrub which has its habitat in the swamp and is characterized by a peculiar yellow flower which blossoms in the fall. One distillery already exists in the town for the production of the extract of hamemalis or witch hazel.

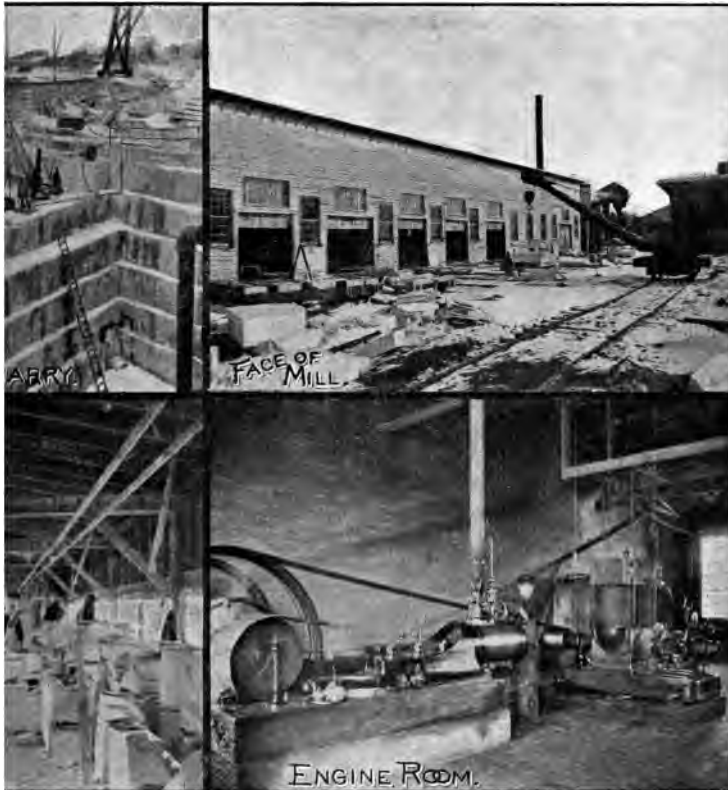
Tho essentially an agricultural section, Sheffield has these other industries, interesting and growing, which being the utilization of things native to the place, are profitable. It is also taking a conspicuous place as a summer resort of singular attractiveness. For many years it has drawn summer visitors from points as distant as Florida; while a great number of people from New York and Connecticut and vicinity have come here to spend their leisure. The elevation of the town and its geologic formation give to it pure air, beautiful, tho quiet, scenery, and water of unusual goodness.



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VI.

In what might be spoken of as its social and institutional life, Sheffield may be called a typical New England town. The church was for many years the centre of that life, and until 1825 was identical with the town. The multiplication of church societies was a multiplication of social centres. The hotels in the old stagecoach days filled a large place in the town life. And at a certain period in the growth of the community the "village store" offered another centre, —the lyceum of town politics. Thirty-three years ago a new institution was added, the Friendly Union, with the purpose to unify the social life and to be to the Sheffield of the 1870's what the Congregational church had been to the Sheffield of 1770. And still another social factor was added on the arrival of the summer guest and visitor whose relations with the townspeople have been very cordial.

As the state church of Massachusetts the Congregational was the first institution of the town. It was founded in 1735 and has occupied an important place for one hundred and sixty-nine years. The Reverend Frelon E. Bolster has for the past three years been minister to the parish.

The enthusiasm of Methodism, catching the spirit of the Wesleys, early entered New England and came to Sheffield in 1790. Fifty-three years later the society found a home on its present site. Under the

leadership of the Reverend J. W. Bohlmann, the present incumbent, the church structure is soon to renew its former appearance.

The Episcopal society, at one time a mission of the Great Barrington church, was incorporated in 1866 and entered the diocese in 1873. Over fifty years before an unsuccessful effort had been made to form a congregation. The Reverend J. S. Ellis has for twenty years ministered to the society in its chapel on Main Street.

In the year 1885 a church building was erected by the Catholics who had been for many years in the habit of attending St. Peter's in Great Barrington. Until two years ago the society was conducted as a mission of that church; at that time Father T. J. Fitzgerald was appointed to the parish and it entered the Springfield diocese.

Over thirty years ago, in 1871, Dr. Orville Dewey and his daughter, Miss Mary E. Dewey, now of Boston, organized the Sheffield Friendly Union for the sake of giving the town a centre of social and intellectual life. It met first in the old academy building, then the store of Mr. Cyrus French, and later in the town hall. In 1887 friends of Dr. Dewey succeeded in erecting in his honor the Dewey Memorial Building, a hall of stone, containing an auditorium, stage and library room. During its life of thirty-three years the society has heard many able lecturers; its

other entertainments have depended much on the local histrionic talent under the direction of Mrs. Dr. G. W. Grover. The Union course, extending thru the midwinter months, is in a sense continued in the entertainments and plays given in the summer. Miss Viola Allen, present at one of these summer plays, showed surprise at the quality of acting found in this New England town.

The schools of Sheffield must be defined as rural. They are under the careful supervision of the superintendent, Mr. A. J. Collins. The schools away from the centre are mixed and have under one teacher eight grades, from the first primary to the eighth grammar. The central schools are three in number, the kindergarten and primary, the grammar and the high school. The elementary schools endeavor to follow the excellent course laid out by Mr. J. T. Prince, agent of the Massachusetts State Board of Education. The high school, with two instructors, aims to give a liberal secondary training. The regular secondary studies are offered, tho, on account of the limited attendance, they are not all elected. Two years ago the course was changed from three to four years in length.

The predecessors of the high school were private academies; one of them, the old Sheffield Academy, founded in 1839, prospered on the Plain for thirty years. The next year after this discontinuance, 1870, the public high school was established, antedated one

hundred and fifty-four years by the grammar schools.

The library facilities of Sheffield are good. The town has a collection of two thousand volumes on the shelves of the library rooms in the town hall, covering the fields of history, literature, art, science and modern



THE DEWEY MEMORIAL HALL.

fiction. This is well supplemented by the Union library in Memorial Hall which includes about fifteen hundred books of much the same character as those mentioned. Together they afford access to about

thirty-five hundred or more books, carefully selected and of good tone.

The history of Main Street, with its fine trees, is intimately connected with another of the institutions of the community, the Village Improvement Association. In 1846 Sheffield had a "Tree Planting Bee," generally thought to be the only one on record in New England. Led by several energetic young men the whole village with unusual foresight planted in the Main Street the elms which now are the pride of the town. Fifty years later this unique event was celebrated in Sheffield, several of the original planters being present. Among them, and orator of the occasion, was Mr. Charles H. Dutcher, who, half a century before, was the boy who carried the chain used in spacing the trees. This celebration was the result of the organization of the Village Improvement Association which had taken place in 1894. A similar society had existed before and was one of the first in western Massachusetts, but its work had lapsed. The first president of the association was Mr. H. S. Andrews; the first secretary and treasurer, Miss Alice B. Sage. The By-Laws (Art. 2d) had this statement: "The purpose of this association shall be the doing of anything that shall tend to make our village more attractive and pleasant." The present officers are Mr. W. D. French, president, and Mrs. T. C. Wickwire, secretary and treasurer.

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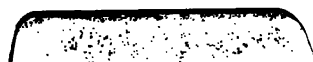
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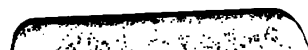
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